

Amendment "B"

Please withdraw claims 1-16, 18-21, 28-29 and 31-51. The state of the claims following this Amendment "B" is as follows:

Claim 1 (Withdrawn). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller configured to:

selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat in response to an input;

wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

electrically energize a second node of the capacitive mat after the first predetermined period time.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further configured to:

wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the second predetermined period of time.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 2, and wherein the controller is further configured to electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference potential during the electrically de-energizing.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

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1 Claim 5 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 1, and wherein the controller is further  
2 configured to:

3 electrically energize the first node at a predetermined positive potential; and

4 electrically energize the second node at a predetermined negative potential.

6 Claim 6 (Withdrawn). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller configured  
7 to:

8 selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat at a time  
9 increasing positive potential in response to an input; and

10 electrically energize a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing  
11 negative potential contemporaneous with the electrically energizing the first node.

13 Claim 7 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further  
14 configured to:

15 electrically energize the first node at the time-increasing positive potential and the  
16 second node at the time-increasing negative potential for a predetermined period of  
17 time; and

18 electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the  
19 predetermined period of time.

21 Claim 8 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 7, and wherein the controller is further  
22 configured to electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground  
23 reference potential during the electrically de-energizing.

25 Claim 9 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further  
configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

1 Claim 10 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 6, and wherein the controller is further  
2 configured such that each of the time-increasing positive potential and the time-  
3 increasing negative potential includes an initial step-change in electrical potential relative  
4 to a ground reference potential.

5  
6 Claim 11 (Withdrawn). A controller for use with a capacitive mat, the controller  
7 configured to:

8 selectively electrically energize a first node of the capacitive mat at a first positive  
9 potential and a second node of the capacitive mat at a first negative potential in  
10 response to an input;

11 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

12 electrically energize the first node at a second positive potential and the second  
13 node at a second negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.

14  
15 Claim 12 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 11, and wherein the controller is further  
16 configured to:

17 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

18 electrically de-energize the first node and the second node after the second  
19 predetermined period of time.

20  
21 Claim 13 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 12, and wherein the controller is further  
22 configured to couple the first node and the second node to a reference potential during  
23 the electrically de-energizing.

24  
25 Claim 14 (Withdrawn). The controller of claim 11, and wherein the controller is further  
configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

1 Claim 15 (Withdrawn). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising:

2 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat  
3 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and

4 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and  
5 configured to:

6 selectively electrically energize the first node at a first predetermined  
7 potential in response to an input;

8 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

9 electrically energize the second node at a second predetermined potential  
10 after the first predetermined period of time.

11  
12 Claim 16 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat  
13 includes:

14 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and

15 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.  
16

17 Claim 17 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat  
18 defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.  
19

20 Claim 18 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the capacitive mat  
21 defines a curved sheet media support surface.  
22

23 Claim 19 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further  
24 configured such that the first predetermined potential is positive relative to the second  
25 predetermined potential.

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1 Claim 20 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further  
2 configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

3  
4 Claim 21 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 15, and wherein the controller is further  
5 configured to:

6 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and  
7 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference  
8 potential after the second predetermined period of time.

9  
10 Claim 22 (original). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising  
11 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat  
12 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and  
13 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and  
14 configured to:

15 selectively electrically energize the first node at a step-change positive  
16 potential and the second node at a step-change negative potential in response to  
17 an input; and

18 electrically energize the first node at a time-increasing positive potential  
19 and the second node at a time-increasing negative potential.

20  
21 Claim 23 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat includes:  
22 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and  
23 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

24  
25 Claim 24 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat  
defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.

1 Claim 25 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat defines a  
2 curved sheet media support surface.

3  
4 Claim 26 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the controller is further  
5 configured to:

6 electrically energize the first node at the time-increasing positive potential and the  
7 second node at the time-increasing negative potential for a predetermined period of  
8 time; and

9 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference  
10 potential after the predetermined period of time.

11  
12 Claim 27 (original). The apparatus of claim 22, and wherein the capacitive mat and the  
13 controller are each further configured to cooperate with an imaging apparatus.

14  
15 Claim 28 (Withdrawn). A sheet media support apparatus, comprising:

16 a capacitive mat including electrical first and second nodes, the capacitive mat  
17 configured to electrically attractingly support a sheet media; and

18 a controller coupled to the first and second nodes of the capacitive mat and  
19 configured to:

20 selectively electrically energize the first node at a first predetermined  
21 positive potential and electrically energize the second node at a first  
22 predetermined negative potential in response to an input;

23 wait for a first predetermined period of time; and

24 electrically energize the first node at a second predetermined positive  
25 potential and electrically energize the second node at a second predetermined  
negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.

1 Claim 29 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat  
2 includes:

3 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and

4 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

5 Claim 30 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat  
6 defines a substantially planar sheet media support surface.

7  
8 Claim 31 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the capacitive mat  
9 defines a curved sheet media support surface.

10  
11 Claim 32 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further  
12 configured such that the second predetermined positive potential is of greater magnitude  
13 than the first predetermined positive potential relative to a ground reference potential.

14  
15 Claim 33 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further  
16 configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

17  
18 Claim 34 (Withdrawn). The apparatus of claim 28, and wherein the controller is further  
19 configured to:

20 wait for a second predetermined period of time; and

21 electrically couple the first node and the second node to a ground reference  
22 potential after the second predetermined period of time.

23  
24 (Continued on next page.)  
25

1 Claim 35 (Withdrawn). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:  
2 receiving an input  
3 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a first predetermined  
4 potential in response to receiving the input;  
5 waiting for a first predetermined period of time; and  
6 electrically energizing a second node of the capacitive mat after the first  
7 predetermined period of time.

8  
9 Claim 36 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 35, and further comprising:  
10 waiting for a second predetermined period of time; and  
11 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the second  
12 predetermined period of time.

13  
14 Claim 37 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 36, and further comprising electrically  
15 coupling the first node and the second node to a ground reference potential during the  
16 de-energizing.

17  
18 Claim 38 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 35, and wherein electrically energizing the  
19 first node includes electrically energizing the first node at a positive predetermined  
20 potential relative to the second predetermined potential.

21  
22 Claim 39 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 35, and further comprising electrically  
23 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.

24  
25 Claim 40 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 35, and wherein receiving the input includes  
receiving the input from a controller of an imaging apparatus.



1 Claim 41 (Withdrawn). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:  
2 receiving an input;  
3 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing  
4 positive potential in response to receiving the input; and  
5 electrically energizing a second node of the capacitive mat at a time-increasing  
6 negative potential contemporaneous with the electrically energizing the first node.

7  
8 Claim 42 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 41, and further comprising:  
9 continuing electrically energizing the first node and the second node for a  
10 predetermined period of time; and  
11 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the  
12 predetermined period of time.

13  
14 Claim 43 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 41, and wherein electrically de-energizing  
15 the first node and the second node includes electrically coupling the first node and the  
16 second node to a reference potential.

17  
18 Claim 44 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 41, and wherein receiving the input includes  
19 receiving the input from a controller of an imaging apparatus.

20  
21 Claim 45 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 41, and further comprising electrically  
22 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.

23  
24 (Continued on next page.)  
25

1 Claim 46 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 41, and wherein:

2 electrically energizing the first node includes electrically energizing the first node  
3 at a step-change positive potential prior to the time-increasing positive potential in  
4 response to receiving the input; and

5 electrically energizing the second node includes electrically energizing the  
6 second node at a step-change negative potential prior to the time-increasing negative  
7 potential.

8  
9 Claim 47 (Withdrawn). A method of controlling a capacitive mat, comprising:

10 receiving an input;

11 electrically energizing a first node of the capacitive mat at a first positive potential  
12 and a second node of the capacitive mat a first negative potential in response to  
13 receiving the input;

14 waiting for a first predetermined period of time; and

15 electrically energizing the first node at a second positive potential and the second  
16 node at a second negative potential after the first predetermined period of time.

17  
18 Claim 48 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 47, and further comprising:

19 waiting for a second predetermined period of time; and

20 electrically de-energizing the first node and the second node after the second  
21 predetermined period of time.

22  
23 Claim 49 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 48, and wherein electrically de-energizing  
24 the first node and the second node includes electrically coupling the first node and the  
25 second node to a reference potential.

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1 Claim 50 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 47, and wherein receiving the input includes  
2 receiving the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

3  
4 Claim 51 (Withdrawn). The method of claim 47, and further comprising electrically  
5 attractively supporting a sheet media using the capacitive mat.

6  
7 Claim 52 (original). An apparatus for supporting a sheet media, comprising:  
8 capacitive mat means for electrically attractingly supporting the sheet media; and  
9 mat controller means for selectively electrically energizing the capacitive mat  
10 means in a predetermined sequential order in response to an input.

11  
12 Claim 53 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the capacitive mat means  
13 includes:

14 an electrical first node and an electrical second node;  
15 a first plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the first node; and  
16 a second plurality of electrical conductors electrically coupled to the second node.

17  
18 Claim 54 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the mat controller means is  
19 configured such that electrically energizing the capacitive mat means in the  
20 predetermined sequential order includes at least one of a step change increase in  
21 electrical potential, a period of time-increasing electrical potential, or a period of  
22 substantially constant electrical potential.

23  
24 Claim 55 (original). The apparatus of claim 52, and wherein the mat controller means is  
25 configured to receive the input from an imaging apparatus controller.

(End of Amendment "B".)